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State of Louisiana
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and
Emergency Preparedness

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PRESS RELEASE

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STATE AGENCIES CONDUCT EXERCISE TO TEST PREPAREDNESS

Baton Rouge, LA (March 31, 2012) – Today, the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP), in partnership with the Louisiana National Guard (LANG), hosted a training exercise to test disaster response capabilities of several state, local and federal agencies. As the 2012 hurricane season approaches, these agencies are evaluating their ability to respond and test their level of preparedness.

"Being complacent is never an option. Our level of preparedness is constantly being tested whether it's through an actual event or a full scale exercise," said GOHSEP Director Kevin Davis. "Exercises such as this one keeps everyone's skills sharp. But more importantly, it identifies any gaps or deficiencies agencies may have."

"This exercise validates not just our hurricane exercise plan, but also an all-hazards approach, to make sure that it is coordinated well with the state's emergency response plan," Brig. Gen. Glenn H. Curtis said. "We want to make sure our citizens know that we are prepared to respond to any emergency in order to protect them and their property."

The mission included air, water and ground search and rescue operations. Other areas of training tested security, commodities distribution and interoperability communications.

Agency participation included: Louisiana State Police (LSP), Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), the Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry (LDAF), Department of Corrections (DOC), Louisiana State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO), Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Department of Health & Hospitals (DHH), Department of Transportation & Development (DOTD) and other local and federal emergency management agencies.

The exercises were held at the Bonnet Carre Spillway in St. Charles Parish, Hackberry High School in Cameron Parish and a point of distribution (POD) site in St. Bernard Parish. Different tasks were exercised at each location to fit the threats that pose a danger to different parts of the state.

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